Exclusion of needy population from PDS

938. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge number of wrong exclusion of needy population from PDS due to the targeted Public Distribution System in many States;

(b) if so, whether Government have noticed this problem;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to guide the State Governments to resolve this problem;

(d) whether Government have any plans to expand the coverage of the PDS by increasing the allocation of food items to selected States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the large number of BPL families in the country, the possibility of exclusion of some of the deserving families from the list of BPL beneficiaries and issue of BPL cards to them cannot be ruled out.

Identification of below the poverty line (BPL) beneficiaries, is one of the most important features of TPDS, carried out by State Governments. Under the guidelines for implementation of TPDS the State Governments have been asked to include the really poor and vulnerable sections of society under the BPL category and actively involve the *Gram Sabhas* and Gram Panchayats in the identification process. The State Governments have been asked to review the list of BPL families at regular intervals so that the poor and needy are not deprived of the benefits under the TPDS. The State Governments have also been advised not to thinly spread the benefit of subsidized foodgrains by covering more number of BPL families than their estimated number.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.